

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228425 TOSEC 270166

62

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT FOX BUTTERFIELD BY-LINER NEW YORK TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 HEADED "SOVIET CONDOLENCES REBUFFED BY PEKING -- CHINA RETURNS CENTRAL COMMITTEE NOTE ON GROUND THAT THE TWO NATIONS HAVE NO PARTY TIES."
2. CHINA TODAY REJECTED MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES IN A MOVE SEEN BY ANALYSTS AS ONE OF THE CLEAREST INDICATIONS YET THAT PEKING'S ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WILL REMAIN LARGELY UNCHANGED.
3. A CHINESE SPOKESMAN IN PEKING SAID TODAY THAT THE MESSAGES HAD BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE "WE HAVE NO PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS WITH THEM." DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PEKING REPORTED THAT A SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT MESSAGES FROM POLAND AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 228425 TOSEC 270166

EAST GERMANY HAD ALREADY BEEN RETURNED.

4. THE TWO-SENTENCE SOVIET CONDOLENCE MESSAGE, WHICH WAS SENT BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST COMMUNICATION FROM THE SOVIET

PARTY SINCE THE DETERIORATION IN CHINESE-SOVIET RELATIONS IN THE 1960'S. CONTACTS AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL HAVE CONTINUED, THOUGH IN SOMEWHAT STRAINED FORM.

5. ANALYSTS SAW THE SOVIET INITIATIVE, AS ONE PUT IT, AS A "TENTATIVE FEELER TO TEST THE WATERS."

6. "NOW, THEY'VE FOUND OUT," HE ADDED.

7. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT, WITH MAO'S DEATH, PEKING'S STANCE MIGHT CHANGE, SINCE IT WAS MAO HIMSELF, PARTLY OUT OF HIS OWN BITTER EXPERIENCES WITH MOSCOW, WHO CHARTED CHINA'S MOMENTOUS SPLIT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE SOME ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT CHINA'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE TOO DEEP TO ALLOW A TOTAL RAPPROCHEMENT, THEY HAVE FELT THAT A POST-MAO LEADERSHIP MIGHT TRY TO MOVE AWAY FROM MAO'S EXTREME POSITION.

8. WHAT EFFECT CHINA'S CONTINUED ANTI-SOVIET POLICY WILL HAVE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IS UNCLEAR. LIKE THE BREAK WITH MOSCOW, CHINA'S OPENING TO THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO GUIDED BY MAO.

9. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGNERS, CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN TO HINT THAT THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH WASHINGTON'S SLOWNESS IN CARRYING OUT ITS PLEDGE IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF 1972 TO WITHDRAW FROM TAIWAN AND NORMALIZE RELATIONS. SOME CHINESE DIPLOMATS HAVE ALSO POINTEDLY MENTIONED THAT TAIWAN MAY NOT BE LIBERATED BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

10. IN ANOTHER EVIDENT GESTURE TO TEST PEKING AFTER MAO'S DEATH LAST THURSDAY, SOVIET SOURCES IN MOSCOW TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES CRITICAL OF CHINA HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY STOPPED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 228425 TOSEC 270166

11. BUT CHINESE PRESS ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CONTINUED. YESTERDAY THE CHINESE PRESS AGENCY, HSINHUA, ISSUED A VEHEMENTLY WORDED ARTICLE DENOUNCING SOVIET ECONOMIC PENETRATION OF THE THIRD WORLD, "SOVIET QUACK MEDICINE, GO TO HELL;"

12. HSINHUA CHARGED THAT SOVIET FOREIGN AID WAS A "VERY

POISONOUS DRUG" AND IT ACCUSED MOSCOW OF PUSHING "SALES OF OUTDATED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT HIGH PRICES WHILE BUYING THEIR RAW MATERIALS AT LOW PRICES."

13. OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE CHINESE PRESS AGENCY HAS

ALSO CARRIED MESSAGES FROM CHINA'S PROVINCES BORDERING ON THE SOVIET UNION PLEDGING TO CONTINUE THEIR VIGILANCE AGAINST AGGRESSION.

14. THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE OF SINKIANG, FOR INSTANCE, SAID IT WOULD "FIRMLY CARRY OUT CHAIRMAN MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS ON SINKIANG'S STRUGGLE AGAINST REVISIONISM AND BE ALWAYS ON THE ALERT AGAINST SUBVERSION, SABOTAGE AND SURPRISE ATTACKS BY SOCIAL IMPERIALISM." REVISIONISM AND SOCIAL IMPERIALISM ARE CHINESE TERMS FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

15. AS A FURTHER INDICATION THAT PEKING IS NOT SOFTENING ITS POSITION, IT REVERSED AN EARLIER DECISION AND DECIDED TO ALLOW JAMES R. SCHLESINGER, THE FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, TO CONTINUE HIS CURRENT TOUR OF CHINA, INCLUDING UNUSUAL VISITS TO TIBET AND SINKIANG. MR. SCHLESINGER IS A FAVORITE IN PEKING BECAUSE OF HIS WARNINGS AGAINST SOVIET MILITARY EXPANSION.

16. CHINESE OFFICIALS, WHO HAD TOLD MR. SCHLESINGER AFTER MAO'S DEATH THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL HIS VISIT, REPORTEDLY SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE TRIP WOULD CONTINUE SINCE IT HAD BEEN MAO'S WISH TO INVITE HIM.

17. THE DECISION SEEMED TO REFLECT AN EFFORT BY PEKING TO GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF BUSINESS AS USUAL. TRAINS AND PLANES UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 228425 TOSEC 270166

HAVE CONTINUED TO OPERATE ON SCHEDULE, AND FOREIGNERS IN HONG KONG HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN PICKING UP VISAS GRANTED BEFORE MAO'S DEATH.

18. A LIST OF FOREIGN LEADERS WHO SENT WREATHS OFFERED CLUES TO HOW PEKING VIEWED THE WORLD. THE LIST, MADE PUBLIC BY HSINHUA, PUT KIM II SUNG OF NORTH KOREA FIRST; ENVER HOXHA OF ALBANIA SECOND, AND NICOLAE CEAUSESCU OF RUMANIA THIRD, FOLLOWED BY CAMBODIA AND THEN VIETNAM.

19. THE RANKING REFLECTED A GAIN FOR NORTH KOREA OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND A DROP FOR VIETNAM, WHICH DURING THE VIETNAM WAR HAD BEEN RANKED AS HIGH AS SECOND OR THIRD. RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND HANOI HAVE GROWN COOL SINCE THE END OF THE WAR BECAUSE OF RIVAL CLAIMS TO THE PARACEL AND

SPRATLY ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND CHINESE FEARS THA
MOSCOW HAS GAINED INFLUENCE IN HANOI. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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